

**SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS**

Applicant has amended Claim 1 for clarity and to change:

“forming a reaction system by adding to the whole blood sample a first substance which is immobilized on a solid carrier and specifically binds to an analyte contained in the whole blood sample and a second substance which specifically binds to the analyte to allow the analyte to react with the first and second substances to form a complex of first substance-analyte-second substance”

to

“forming a reaction system by ~~adding to~~ mixing the whole blood sample with a whole blood treatment solution comprising detergent, and adding to the mixture of the whole blood sample and the whole blood treatment solution a first substance which is immobilized on a solid carrier and specifically binds to an analyte contained in the whole blood sample and a second substance which specifically binds to the analyte to allow the analyte to react with the first and second substances to form a complex of first substance-analyte-second substance.”

Support for this amendment can be found in Claim 4, as previously presented.

Claim 15 has been amended to recite:

“wherein the whole blood sample is first mixed with the whole blood treatment solution, and then the first and the second substances are added to the mixture of the whole blood sample and the whole blood treatment solution to form a reaction system,

wherein said reaction system comprises the detergent in a concentration range of 0.5 to 5% so that hemolysis is prevented.”

Support for this amendment can be found in Claims 1, 4 and 15, as previously presented.

Claim 7 has been amended to properly depend from Claim 1. Support for amended Claim 7 can be found in the same claim, as originally filed.